

THE "LEARN YOUR SERVICE AREA" SCAVENGER HUNT

Many new advocates are newcomers to their communities. The purpose of this Scavenger Hunt is help you learn more about your community which can help you do better job understanding and and representing your clients.

How you get the information in the Scavenger Hunt is entirely up to you. There are no rules. As in all legal services work, collaboration and creativity is expected. Work smarter not harder, but keep in mind that one purpose of the Scavenger Hunt is to get you out in the service area on your own, talking directly to people who significantly influence your clients' lives and make up the community which is now your home. Feel free to talk with others in and outside the Program about best ways to obtain the information, and please consult and share ideas, methods, etc., with others, including other new attorneys also working on this project.

Don't forget—this is supposed to be useful and enjoyable. So get out there and have **Fun** while you **Learn** and make **Big Money** in Legal Services !!!

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1. Learn the office holders in your service area.
 - a. List the judges in your service area and beside each name list party affiliation, when they went onto the bench, when their current term ends, and what they did before becoming judge (if they were with a local law firm, list name of the firm).
 - b. List all state and federal representatives to the General Assembly or Congress from your service area, what political party they are with, what county they are from, and when first elected to current position.
 - c. List all the county commissioners, their political party, and the date and time of their regular meetings.
 - d. List names of the mayor of the largest community in each of your counties, their political party, and introduce yourself to one of them.
 - e. List the clerk of court for each court in your service area. Introduce yourself to each of them.
 - f. List the secretary of each common pleas judge in your service area. Introduce yourself to each of them.
 - h. List the sheriffs and county prosecutors in your service area, when they began in their position, and their political affiliation.
 - i. List the chief of police and city attorney for the largest community in each county.

2. Learn the local bar.

- a. List the names of the president of each county bar association and when and where each bar association meets. Be introduced at a meeting of the home county bar and one other bar meeting.
- b. List the attorneys who represent the CSEA in child support cases in your counties.
- c. List the attorneys who handle PAI and/or RFP cases in your counties and who regularly volunteer at any local pro se or pro bono clinics.
- d. List the attorneys who are the best attorneys in each county.
- e. How many attorneys practice in each county? What is the largest law firm having offices in your service area? How many attorneys work for it?

2. Learn the agency people in your service area.

- a. List the directors of each DJFS in your service area. Which DJFS is the best in the service area? Why? Meet that director.
- b. List the directors of each Children's Services agency in your service area. Which is the

best in the service area? Why? Meet that director.

- c. List the director of each community action agency in your service area. Which is the best agency? Why? Meet that director.
 - d. List the director of each public housing authority in your service area. Which is the best? Why? Meet that director.
3. Learn about client resources in each county of your service area:
- a. List the DV and homeless shelter(s) in your service area. Visit one of each.
 - b. What mediation programs are there in your service area?
 - c. List sources of charitable or emergency food, cash, clothing, utility, and similar assistance in each county. Go to one in an outlying county and ask questions of the people who operate it as how many they serve, where they get their funding, etc.
 - d. List each subsidized housing project in service area.
 - e. List where low income people in service area can go for medical and/or dental care if they do not have insurance or medicaid.
 - f. List where low income people in service area can go for mental health issues if they do not have insurance or medicaid.
 - g. List the Social Security office that serves your service area.

- h. List the community boards or task forces that office members serve on or are active in.
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- 4. Learn about your counties.
 - a. For each county, list the political party that is generally most powerful and the head of that party.
 - b. Who is the biggest slumlord in each of your counties?
 - c. Identify all forms of public transportation serving your area.
 - d. An elderly client calls the office from a friend's home at 4:15 p.m. on a Friday afternoon just before a long weekend. She says a utility company just shut off her service. She is not at all clear about what company or type of utility service it is. List the companies it could be and whether the company is PUCO regulated or not.
 - e. State the total population of each county and of the largest town in each county, together percentage of minority populations in each county and largest towns, from the current and last US census.
 - f. State the percentage of residents in each county who receive:
 - i. Food stamps
 - ii. OWF
 - iii. Medicaid

- g. State the percentage of adults in each county with at least a high school degree.
- h. State the largest employer in each county, and their business type.
- i. State the median or average income for that county and how those figures compare to the state and national averages.
- j. Find out how long the waiting list is for Section 8 and PH subsidies in your counties.
- g. Go to a local high school football or basketball game.